

# Allegiance

## **Building A Foundation Of Loyalty to God**

**Allegiance is a 30 day Bible study devotional to help infuse fresh energy into every Christian man's walk with Christ. It is especially designed to appeal to the motivations of a man's heart and help him channel those desires into allegiance to his Lord.**

Dedicated to Brian, Tim, Josh and their future sons

By Gary Yagel

## Day 5                    Knowing the True God

Anytime you hear someone espouse the myth that all religions worship the same God called by different names, you are listening to ignorance. Only Biblical Christianity worships a thoroughly holy God.

Read Isaiah 6:1-8. *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:*

*"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory."*

*At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.*

*"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."*

*Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."*

The word, "holy" in Hebrew has as its root, "to cut." There is a great chasm between us and God. He is other. He is morally perfect; we are not. What details of the scene in vs. 1 show the gap between Isaiah and The Holy One of Israel?

Isaiah wasn't even at the level of God's feet. There were layers and layers of royal robe between Isaiah and the bottom of the throne. Isaiah was dwarfed by the train of Yahweh's robe. When the holiness of God strikes you, you see that God is so awesome, so great, so absent from limitation, that you become very small. You realize you can't trifle with him, argue with him, complain to him, criticize him, beat him, avoid him, or ignore him.

Why would the seraphs need a pair of wings to cover their faces?

God's holiness means his love, mercy, kindness, justice, grace, and compassion are infinitely superior to ours—a source of great comfort to us. We have enormous security in the perfect, unchanging

character of God. Yet the blazing light of his very being lays bare our hearts and terrifies us.

Look back in Isaiah 6:4-5. What is Isaiah feeling?

When Isaiah, says “Woe to me” he is pronouncing the covenant curse upon himself.

*“God is holy and has made holiness the moral condition necessary to health in His universe. Sin’s temporary residence in this universe only accents this. Whatever is holy is healthy; evil is moral sickness that must end ultimately in death. The formation of the language itself suggests this, the English word **holy** deriving from the Anglo-Saxon **halig, hal**, meaning ‘well, whole.’*

*Since God’s first concern for his universe is its moral health, that is its holiness, whatever is contrary to this is necessarily under his eternal displeasure. To preserve his creation, he must destroy whatever would destroy it.” A W Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy*

God is of purer eyes than to behold evil, who will not tolerate iniquity. He will send people to hell. The Israelites at Sinai were told that if even an animal touched the holy mountain it would die. Uzzah reaches up to steady the Ark of the Covenant to keep it from falling in the mud. But the greater concern to God was Uzzah’s pollution, not the mud. Uzzah was struck dead.<sup>1</sup>

Back in Isaiah 6:5. Of all the things that Isaiah could feel unclean about, why would it be his lips?

We don’t know for sure the answer to this question. But keep in mind that Isaiah’s profession was being a prophet, i.e. the “mouthpiece” of God. Lips are to a prophet what fingers are to a pianist, what legs are to a running back—their greatest asset. Isaiah’s strongest suit, his best deeds, can not commend him to a holy God. That is precisely where the God of Christianity differs from other gods.

*“The holiness of God does not simply lead Isaiah to repent of his sins. Plenty of people repent of their sins who really don’t understand the gospel. The holiness of God leads Isaiah to repent of his righteousness, his best deeds, his pride and joy, the thing he does best. That explains why he feels he is coming apart.” Tim Keller, Sermon Tape, “Isaiah 6”*

Unless we are wounded by the holiness of God, we’ll never be healed by the grace of God. Pause to meditate upon God’s holy nature. What would your life be like if God were not the holy God he is? You might tell God how blessed you are that he is a holy God!

## End Notes

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Samuel 6:7